
Judiciary Committee

HB 1205

Title: An act relating to changing the number of court of appeals judges.

Brief Description: Adding one judge to division two of the court of appeals.

Sponsors: Representatives Van De Wege, Rolfes, Haigh and Williams; by request of Board For Judicial Administration.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorizes an additional judge position for Division II of the Court of Appeals.
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Hearing Date: 1/19/09

Staff: Edie Adams (786-7180)

Background:

The court of appeals is a non-discretionary appellate court and therefore must hear all cases filed with the court. All appeals of superior court decisions, except those that may be appealed directly to the Supreme Court, are heard by the court of appeals. There are three divisions of the court of appeals, headquartered in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. Each of the three divisions is further divided into three geographic districts. Judges of the court of appeals are elected by district to six-year terms. They must be residents of the districts from which they are elected and must have been admitted to the practice of law in this state for at least five years.

Division II of the Court of Appeals is headquartered in Tacoma and has a total of seven judge positions, allocated as follows to the three districts:

- three judges in District 1, which consists of Pierce County;
- two judges in District 2, which consists of Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, and Thurston counties; and
- two judges in District 3, which consists of Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The number of judges authorized in Division II of the Court of Appeals is increased from seven to eight. The new judge position is allocated to District 2 of Division II, increasing the number of judge positions for District 2 to three.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 14, 2009.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.